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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the instant application is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-10 are pending in the application with claims 1, 4, 5, and 9 having been amended herein. The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 4 and 5 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-10 having been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In response, independent claims 1, 4, 5, and 10 have been amended to clarify certain aspect of the invention. It is submitted that in view of the amended language the Examiner's concerns regarding the transmission lines, the higher speed transmission lines, the networks have been addressed. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/13835 to Lauder et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,587,974 to Majd and in further view of U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/35411 to Moy et al. Further claims 9 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Lauder in view of Majd and Moy and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,061,335 to De Vito.

Independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to recite in pertinent part that at least one of the plurality of networks includes high speed transmission lines and to recite:

a control unit transmitting switching information only via the at least one network having higher speed transmission lines and at least one higher speed input unit when trouble occurs in the transmission lines shared by said plurality of networks

It is respectfully submitted that the relied upon portions of the cited references do not teach the routing of the switching information only via the higher speed transmission lines when trouble occurs. Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claims 1 and 9 patentably

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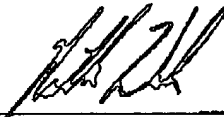
distinguish over the relied upon portions of the cited references and are allowable. Claims 2-3, and 6-8 and 10, which depend from one of these allowable base claims are allowable therewith.

For at least the foregoing reasons it is respectfully requested the rejections be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



Nathan Weber
Reg. No. 50,958

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304
Telephone: (212) 940-8800
Fax: (212) 940-8986 or 8987
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